



**THE
WORLD
BANK**

Position Description

Title: Economist

Number of Positions:

Grade: GF

Department/Division: GPVDR (Poverty
Global Practice)

Location: Washington D.C.

Background/General Description

The World Bank Group (WBG) twin goals of ending extreme poverty and promoting shared prosperity reflect a new global landscape: one in which developing countries have an unprecedented opportunity to end extreme poverty within a generation.

The WBG will face traditional and new challenges as it works with partners to reach those who live in extreme and moderate poverty. Indeed, many of those who emerged from poverty in recent years remain vulnerable to shocks and slowdowns in growth. Concerted efforts to equalize opportunities are necessary for substantial improvements in shared prosperity.

Reaching the ambitious WBG twin goals will require high and sustained economic growth across the developing world that also translates more effectively into poverty reduction in each country. This kind of robust, sustainable, inclusive growth—that achieves the maximum possible increase in living standards of the less well-off—is not business as usual, and has important implications for the WBG. In particular, the quest for economic growth, poverty reduction and shared prosperity can no longer be seen as separate, nor can policy options be viewed as a trade-off between economic growth and poverty reduction. At the same time, these priorities must be consistent with each country's economic, social and institutional context and challenges—there is no one-size-fits-all solution. Ultimately, the twin goals demand a sharper, country-specific understanding of the constraints to growth and the trade-offs that available macro and sectoral policy choices entail, to promote substantial improvements in the welfare of the less well-off.

The WBG's first joint strategy seeks to position the institution to deliver better for its clients by: (1) maximizing development impact by identifying and tackling the most difficult development challenges; (2) promoting scaled-up partnerships strategically aligned with the goals; and (3) convening public and private resources, expertise and ideas.

Poverty Global Practice

In order to achieve this, the institution is organized around fourteen global practices (GP) and five cross-cutting solution areas (CCSA), one of which is the Poverty Global Practice (Poverty GP).

The Poverty GP will play three key –leading and supportive– roles: sectoral integrator at country level; generator of knowledge and dialogue; and operational solutions supporter. These roles will be developed in two corporate priorities: (i) Poverty monitoring and statistical capacity building, (ii) Markets and institutions for poverty reduction and shared prosperity, (iii) Fiscal and social policy for poverty reduction and shared prosperity, and (iv) Resilience to shocks and sustainability of poverty reduction and shared prosperity.

DUTIES AND ACCOUNTABILITIES

- Participate and lead teams to provide knowledge (analytical work, technical assistance, capacity building), financial and convening services in at least one of the following areas:
 - Designing and implementing top quality analytical work on poverty, gender and equity, including diagnostics of mobility, vulnerability, multi-dimensional poverty, and agency and voice;
 - Using and developing new and innovative frameworks, instruments and technologies to monitor poverty, equity and gender trends; and to store, process, share and analyze data;
 - Examining labor markets and jobs outcomes – with a focus on improving labor market opportunities and mobility for vulnerable households and women,
 - Analyzing the distributional impact of fiscal policies and their role in promoting equity and gender equality;
 - Examining issues related to aging, including its implication for welfare.
- Advise country and sectoral teams on how to address poverty, equity, gender issues and promote evidence based decision making with support for country assistance strategies, policy loans, investment operations, and other country and regional analytic products.
- Contribute to the development of regional public goods in statistical development, the Data Lab and other regional statistical initiatives for data sharing and analysis.
- Engage in operational and policy dialogue with clients to design and deliver innovative analytical work, capacity building services, financial products and technical assistance.

SELECTION CRITERIA

- **General Economic Knowledge and Analytical Skills** - Possesses a demonstrated track record of working with economic and sectoral data and analytical tools and models to conduct economic analyses and produce user-friendly written outputs; understands underlying statistical concepts.
- **Knowledge and Experience in Development Arena** - Understands policy making process; distills operationally relevant recommendations/lessons for clients.
- **Policy Dialogue Skills** - Identifies and assesses policy issues and plays an active role in the dialogue with the government and/or other stakeholders.
- **Integrative Skills** - Working to develop an integrated view across all facets of current sector.
- **Technical and Quantitative Skills as an Applied Development Microeconomist** - Has experience in microeconometrics and statistical modeling - designing, implementing household surveys & performing complex econometric analysis.
- **Written and Verbal Communication** - Delivers information effectively in support of team or workgroup
- **Lead and Innovate** - Develops innovative solutions.
- **Deliver Results for Clients**- Proactively addresses clients' stated and unstated needs.

- **Collaborate Within Teams and Across Boundaries**- Collaborates across boundaries, gives own perspective and willingly receives diverse perspectives.
- **Create, Apply and Share Knowledge**- Applies knowledge across WBG to strengthen solutions for internal and/or external clients.
- **Make Smart Decisions**- Interprets a wide range of information and pushes to move forward.

OTHER SELECTION CRITERIA

- A personal commitment to development and to fighting poverty and to reducing gender inequality.
- PhD and a minimum of 2-5 years of relevant operational/practitioner experience.
- Excellent quantitative and analytical background with a record of high quality analytical work in the areas outline above. Publications in peer reviewed journals are desired.
- Experience as a practitioner in developing and/or transition countries is desirable.
- Experience with operational programs (including capacity building) for poverty reduction, labor markets, and gender equity is a plus.
- Superb interpersonal skills; ability to collaborate effectively with multi-disciplinary teams, and to listen and integrate ideas from varied sources, governments, NGOs and donors, while being diplomatic and sensitive to cultural, political and gender issues.
- Ability to work with staff from all levels and to mentor, coach and motivate more junior staff.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills.
- Intermediate Spanish and Portuguese are desirable.

The World Bank Group is committed to achieving diversity in terms of gender, nationality, culture and educational background. Individuals with disabilities are equally encouraged to apply. All applications will be treated in the strictest confidence.